

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please make the following changes at the indicated locations in the English translation of the specification filed on April 29, 2008:

Page 1, line 4, between the title (line 3) and line 5, please insert the following:

### **CROSS-REFERENCE**

The invention described and claimed herein below is also described in PCT/EP 2004/008626, filed August 2, 2004, in Europe and also in DE 103 35 228.7, filed August 1, 2003, in Germany. The foregoing foreign applications provide the basis for a claim of priority of invention under 34 U.S.C. 365 (a) and/or 35 U.S.C. 119 (a) to (d).

### **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

#### **1. The Field of the Invention**

Page 1, lines 5 to 6, please make the following changes in the paragraph between these lines:

The invention relates to a thinning tool ~~as generically defined by the preamble to claims 1~~ for an electric hair clipper, and, more particularly, to a thinning tool for an electric hair clipper comprising a lower shearing blade with a lower row of teeth and an upper shearing blade with an upper row of teeth, which is swingable back and forth parallel to the lower row of teeth.

Page 1, line 7, please insert the following:

## **2. The Description of the Related Art**

Page 1, line 12 (between the second and third paragraphs), please insert the following heading:

### **BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Page 1, lines 17 to 19, please replace the paragraph between these lines with the following paragraphs:

This object and others, which will be made more apparent herein after, are attained in a thinning tool for an electric hair clipper comprising a lower shearing blade with a lower row of teeth and an upper shearing blade with an upper row of teeth, which is swingable back and forth parallel to the lower row of teeth.

According to the invention the thinning tool has two retaining rails provided on opposite sides thereof, which are formed for mounting the thinning tool on the lower shearing blade, and a row of tines provided with tine slots extending between the tines and stops on lower ends of the tines, which stops abut against a free end of the lower shearing blade when the thinning tool is mounted on the lower shearing blade, so that the tines form an extension of the teeth of the lower shearing blade. The tine slots are provided with conical enlargements at free ends of the tine slots for catching and guiding hairs and the tine slots each have a width at ends of the tine slots that are opposite to the free ends, such that the hairs in each tine slots are cut in succession instead of simultaneously so that a finely graduated thinning of the hair is obtained when the thinning tool is placed

on the lower shearing blade and the electric hair clipper is operated to thin the hair.

In preferred embodiments of the invention additional thinning tools are provided for the hair clipper, which have different hair thinning properties because they have different numbers of tines or different width tine slots.

### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING**

Page 1, lines 21 and 22, please make the following changes in the paragraph between these lines:

The invention is described in further detail in terms of an exemplary embodiment~~[[.]]~~, which is shown in the drawing in which:

Page 1, lines 24 to 34, please make the following changes in the sentence (paragraph) between these lines:

Fig. 1 shows a thinning tool in a top view;

Fig. 2 shows the thinning tool of fig. 1 in a side view;

Fig. 3 shows the thinning tool of Fig. 1 in a view from behind;

Fig. 4 shows the thinning tool of Fig. 1 in perspective;

Fig. 5 is a detailed top view of a part of ~~shows~~ the thinning tool of Fig. 1, which is designated by X in an enlarged detail X of Fig. 1; ~~[[and]]~~

Fig. 6 is a side view of ~~shows~~ a hair clipper with ~~[[a]]~~ the thinning tool of Fig. 1 placed on it~~[[.]] in a side view~~~~[[.]]~~; and

Figs. 7a, 7b, and 7c are respective top views of additional embodiments of

thinning tools, which are included in a set of thinning tools comprising the thinning tool of figs. 1 to 6.

Page 2, above line 1, please insert the following heading:

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

Page 3, line 15, to page 4, line 1, please delete the paragraphs between these lines and insert the following paragraphs:

Three different thinning tools are shown in figs. 7a to 7c. These thinning tools differ in different ways from the embodiment of the thinning tool according to figs. 1 to 6. The same parts in the different thinning tools 1 are however designated with the same drawing reference numbers and the description of the parts of the thinning tools will not be repeated in the following part of the description.

For example, one set of three thinning tools 1 is provided in which each of the three thinning tools has tine slots that are of equal widths, but the widths of the tine slots of different thinning tools are different. This set has a first thinning tool 1 according to figs. 1 to 6 and a second thinning tool 1 as shown in fig. 7a. The second thinning tool is the same as the first thinning tool, except that the width B' of the tine slots is larger than the width B of the tine slots of the first thinning tool in fig. 7a. For example the width B' of the tine slots of the second thinning tool is 0.5 mm when the width B of the tine slots of the first thinning tool is 0.2 mm. The third thinning tool could have a tine slot width that is even larger,

for example 1.0 mm. More or fewer hairs would be thinned in one cutting operation depending on which of the three thinning tools of this set is mounted on the hair clipper.

An additional set of three thinning tools 1, for example, is provided in which the tine slots have two different widths  $B''$  and  $B'''$  and these widths alternate in size from one side of the thinning tool to the other. The thinning tools of this additional set are the same as each other, except that the widths  $B''$  and  $B'''$  of the tine slots are different in the different thinning tools. For example, a first thinning tool has tine slots that have a first width  $B''$  of 0.2 mm and a second width  $B'''$  of 0.4 mm; a second thinning tool 1 has tine slots that have a third width  $B''$  of 0.3 mm and a fourth width  $B'''$  of 0.6 mm; and a third thinning tool 1 has tine slots that have a fifth width  $B''$  of 0.4 mm and a sixth width  $B'''$  of 0.8 mm. Different thinning properties are obtained depending on which thinning tool 1 is used.

For example, one further set of three thinning tools 1 is provided in which the spacing of the tines is different in different thinning tools. This further set has a first thinning tool 1 according to figs. 1 to 6 and a second thinning tool 1 as shown in fig. 7c. The first thinning tool 1 has a tine spacing  $A$  of 3 mm, but the second thinning tool 1 is provided with a tine spacing  $A'$  of 5 mm. The tine spacing for the third thinning tool 1 would be e.g. 8 mm. Different thinning properties are obtained depending on which thinning tool 1 is used.